Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Replace claims 22 and 26 with the following revised claims:

B1

22. (Twice Amended) A method for screening compounds for modulation of $GABA_B$ receptor 1 transcription, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a host cell hosting an expression system comprising a nucleic acid molecule constituting a human $GABA_B$ receptor 1 promoter P1a and/or a human $GABA_B$ receptor 1 promoter P1b, or functionally equivalent modified forms thereof, or active fragments thereof, wherein the promoter or modified form thereof or active fragment thereof is coupled to a reporter gene so that expression of the reporter gene is under the control of the promoter, modified form or active fragment;

(b) contacting a test compound with the cell; and

(c) determining whether the test compound modulates the level of expression of the reporter gene.

B2

26. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein the host cell hosts an expression system comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding at least one transcription factor.

Add new claims 32-41 as follows:

B3 Sub C1

32. (New) A method for screening compounds for modulation of $GABA_B$ receptor 1 transcription, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a host cell hosting an expression system comprising a nucleic acid molecule constituting:

a promoter element selected from the group consisting of:

(i) a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID No: 1,

(ii) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing to a nucleotide sequence complementary to SEQ ID NO: 1 under conditions at least as stringent as those provided by performing a hybridization to filter-bound DNA at 65° C in a buffer consisting of 0.5M $NaPO_4$, 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate, 1mM EDTA followed by a washing at 68° C in 0.1X SSC buffer containing 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate,

(iii) a nucleic acid molecule at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID No. 1,

(iv) a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID No: 2,

(v) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing, under stringent

conditions to a nucleotide sequence complementary to SEQ ID NO: 2, at least as stringent as those provided by performing a hybridization to filter-bound DNA at 65° C in a buffer consisting of 0.5M $NaPO_4$, 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate, 1mM EDTA followed by a washing at 68° C in 0.1X SSC buffer containing 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate, and

(vi) a nucleic acid molecule at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID No. 2; and

a reporter gene, wherein the promoter element is coupled to the reporter gene so that expression of the reporter gene is under the control of the promoter element;

(b) contacting a test compound with the cell; and

(c) determining whether the test compound modulates the level of expression of the reporter gene.

33. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein the reporter gene is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the firefly luciferase gene;

(b) the bacterial chloramphenicol acetyl transferase (CAT) gene;

(c) the ß-galactosidase (ß-Gal) gene; and

(d) the green fluorescent protein (GFP) gene.

34. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein the host cell endogenously expresses at least one $GABA_B$ receptor 1.

35. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein the host cell hosts an expression system comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding at least one transcription factor.

36. (New) The method according to claim 35, wherein the transcription factor is selected from the group consisting of: CREB-1, CREB-2, CREM-1, ATF-1, ATF-2, ATF-3, ATF-4, Sp1, Sp2, Sp3, Sp4, AP-1 and AP-2.

37. (New) A method for screening compounds for modulation of $GABA_B$ receptor 1 transcription, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a host cell hosting an expression system comprising a nucleic acid molecule constituting:

a promoter element consisting essentially of a functionally equivalent modified form or active fragment of a nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

(i) a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID No: 1,

(ii) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing to a nucleotide sequence complementary to SEQ ID NO: 1 under conditions at least as stringent as those provided by performing a hybridization to filter-bound DNA at 65° C in a buffer consisting of 0.5M $NaPO_4$, 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate, 1mM EDTA followed by a washing at 68° C in 0.1X SSC buffer containing 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate,

(iii) a nucleic acid molecule at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID No. 1,

(iv) a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID No: 2,

(v) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing, under stringent conditions to a nucleotide sequence complementary to

SEQ ID NO: 2, at least as stringent as those provided by performing a hybridization to filter-bound DNA at 65° C in a buffer consisting of 0.5M $NaPO_4$, 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate, 1mM EDTA followed by a washing at 68° C in 0.1X SSC buffer containing 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate, and

(vi) a nucleic acid molecule at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID No. 2; and

a reporter gene, wherein the promoter element is coupled to the reporter gene so that expression of the reporter gene is under the control of the promoter element;

(b) contacting a test compound with the cell; and

(c) determining whether the test compound modulates the level of expression of the reporter gene.

38. (New) The method according to claim 37, wherein the reporter gene is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the firefly luciferase gene;

(b) the bacterial chloramphenicol acetyl transferase (CAT) gene;